

SECRET

ROUTING

CHIEF	INIT	ACT	INFO
D/CHIEF			
OPS			
PLAN			
HOLD FOR:			
T.H.			
FILE			

1	ll	9
2		10
3		11
4	ofc	12
5	"	13
6		14
7		15
8		16

25X1A

25X1A

20 D

SECRET 162053Z CITE

25X1A

25X1A

OXCARTEL INTEL

25X1A

EXTRACTED FROM THE LAS VEGAS REVIEW JOURNAL, DATED 15 JAN 67.  
 HEADING - SPY PLANE MISHAP - PROBE CRASH SCENE. QUOTE: CALIENTE -  
 MORE THAN A WEEK HAS PASSED SINCE THE CRASH OF A SECRET U.S. AIR  
 FORCE SPY PLANE SOUTH OF HERE, BUT THE NORMALLY QUIET MEADOW VALLEY  
 WASH IS A HIVE OF ACTIVITY BY THE MILITARY. THEY'RE LOOKING FOR  
 A NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK - A FOOTLONG CAMERA WHICH APPARENTLY POPPED  
 OFF THE WING OF THE 2,000 MILE-AN-HOUR RECONNAISSANCE PLANE WHEN  
 IT CRASHED INTO THE SIDE OF A MOUNTAIN, FOUR MILES SOUTHWEST OF  
 LEITH, 5 JAN. THE CAMERA MAY PROVIDE SOME KEY TO THE CRASH OF THE  
 PLANE, WHICH WAS FATAL TO ITS PILOT, WALTER L. RAY, 33, EMPLOYED  
 BY THE LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT CORP. OR, IT MAY BE A PART OF THE SUPER-  
 SECRET EQUIPMENT THE CRAFT USES TO SPY ON THE EARTH FROM ALTITUDES  
 OF 80,000 FT. THIS COMMUNITY IS BULGING WITH AIR FORCE PERSONNEL.  
 EVERY GUEST ROOM IN TOWN IS FULL. BY DAY, THEY SEARCH, AND BY  
 NIGHT, THEY REST. ARMED GUARDS STOP MOTORISTS IN THE MEADOW

GROUP 1  
 EXCLUDED FROM AUTO-  
 MATED DOWNGRADING  
 AND DECLASSIFICATION

IN: 50209

S E C R E T

PAGE 2

VALLEY WASH AND INTERVIEW THEM. SOUTHBOUND TRAVELERS GET THEIR FIRST INKLING THAT SOMETHING IS AMISS WHEN THEY ARE STOPPED BY MILITARY PERSONNEL NEAR ELGIN. NORTHBOUND MOTORISTS ARE STOPPED NEAR CAPP. BOTH LOCATIONS ARE SMALL SECTION STATIONS ON THE MAIN LINE OF THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD. THE AIR FORCE HAS ALSO BROUGHT IN CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT TO BUILD FIVE MILES OF DIRT ROAD FROM KANE SPRINGS WASH (HEADLINE FROM SECOND PAGE: SEEK TRACE OF MISSING RECONNAISSANCE CAMERA) TO THE MOUNTAIN WHERE THE PLANE CRASHED SO THE PARTS CAN BE TRUCKED OUT. BIG "LOW BOY" TRUCKS, EMPTY, STAND IN VACANT LOTS HERE AS REMINDERS OF THE TRUCKED IN EQUIPMENT. "WE'RE GOING TO GET THAT PLANE OUT, NO MATTER WHAT IT COSTS," ONE MILITARY MAN REMARKED. A RESIDENT OF THIS TOWN SAID, "WE'VE HAD A NUMBER OF MILITARY AIRPLANE CRASHES AROUND HERE, BUT WE'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THE SECURITY FOR THIS CRASH." RANCHERS ON HORSEBACK ARE EVEN BEING EMPLOYED BY THE AIR FORCE TO SEARCH THE RUGGED MOUNTAINS FOR THE MISSING CAMERA. THE PLANE HIT A MOUNTAIN WITH ABOUT A 45 DEGREE SLOPE, AND THIS SHOULD GIVE THE ROADBUILDING ENGINEERS OF THE AIR FORCE SOME DIFFICULTIES. ABOUT 83 MEN ARE CONSTANTLY MOVING IN AND OUT OF THE COMMUNITY. FEW OF THEM WILL SAY ANYTHING. "IT HASN'T BEEN LIKE OTHER CRASHES," SAID ONE RESIDENT. "EVERYTHING IS HUSH, HUSH." RANCHERS GET \$5 A DAY FOR THE USE OF A HORSE. THE PLANE WAS IDENTIFIED BY THE AIR FORCE AS THE SR-71 THE SR STANDS FOR STRATEGIC RECONNAISSANCE. THE PLANE IS ALSO KNOWN AS THE YF-12, WHEN IT IS USED FOR OTHER PURPOSES. PRESIDENT JOHNSON ANNOUNCED THE EXISTENCE OF THE CRAFT ON JULY 24, 1964, BUT LITTLE IS KNOWN OF ITS CAPABILITIES. IT IS AN EXOTIC SUCCESSOR TO THE NOTORIOUS U-2 SPY PLANE SHOT DOWN OVER RUSSIA. THE INVESTIGATIVE AIR FORCE

S E C R E T

IN: 50239

S E C R E T

PAGE 3

PERSONNEL IN MEADOW VALLEY WASH TALK TO ALL TRAVELEERS. THEY ARE VERY POLITE, BUT WANT TO KNOW ALL ABOUT EVERYONE'S BUSINESS AND DESTINATION IN THE AREA. "THEY EVEN WENT OUT AND INTERVIEWED ONE PANCHER WHO WAS WORKING IN HIS OWN PASTURE," ONE REPORT STATED. A HELICOPTER HAS ALREADY REMOVED THE SPY PLANE'S CANOPY. THE BODY OF THE PILOT, WHO APPARENTLY EJECTED AND WAS FOUND SEVEPAL MILES WEST OF THE CRASH SCENE, IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN REMOVED THE SAME WAY. THERE WERE EVEN SOME INDICATIONS THAT THE PLANE MAY NOT HAVE EVEN BEEN THE ONE THE AIR FORCE SAID IT WAS. THERE WAS SOME UNOFFICIAL TALK AROUND TOWN THAT THE CRAFT WAS ONE NOT PREVIOUSLY ACKNOWLEDGED AS BEING AMONG THE AIR FORCE ARSENAL, BUT THIS BROUGHT ONLY BLANK STARES FROM OFFICIAL SOURCES. THEIR BEST EXPLANATION WAS THAT SOME MILITARY MEN WERE USING INCORRECT DESIGNATIONS IN THEIR CONVEPSATIONS. A TRAGEDY HAS RESULTED IN AN UNSEASONAL ECONOMIC BOOM IN CALIENTE, AND HOW LONG IT WILL LAST MAY DEPEND ON THE RECOVERY OF A FOOT-LONG CAMEPA. UNQUOTE. ALSO WITH THIS ARTICLE WAS A MAP OF THE AREA GIVING APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE DOWNED AIRCRAFT, WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT. QUOTE. SCENE OF AIR FORCE SEARCH - THIS MAP SHOWS WHERE AIR FORCE TEAMS ARE SEARCHING FOR A MISSING CAMEPA FROM THE SECRET SPY PLANE WHICH CRASHED (ARROW SHOWS APPROXIMATE LOCATION) ABOUT FOUR MILES SOUTHWEST OF LEITH. MOTORISTS ARE STOPPED FROM THE NORTH AT ELGIN AND FROM THE SOUTH AT CAPP. AIR FORCE PERSONNEL ARE BEING HOUSED AT CALIENTE. UNQUOTE.

S E C R E T TOR: 162144Z JAN 67